

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-01 TRSE-00
H-01 INR-10 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 /141 W

-----005055 271825Z /47

R 271530Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7225
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 09405

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PLOS EG
SUBJECT: LOS: EGYPTIAN VIEWS ON LAW OF THE SEA
- CONFERENCE

REF: (A) STATE 70035, (B) STATE 71543,
- (C) STATE 70638

SUMMARY. POLCOUNS PROVIDED DIRECTOR MFA LEGAL DEPARTMENT
NABIL ELARABY COPIES OF AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON'S MARCH 16
STATEMENT AND PRESS CONFERENCE ON USG REVIEW OF LOS
CONFERENCE UPON RECEIPT (REFS A AND B). ON MARCH 25
POLCOUNS MET WITH ELARABY TO OBTAIN GOE REACTION AND
DISCUSS PRINCIPAL ISSUES (REF C). ELARABY REVEALED
SOME NEW INFO ON GOE POSITIONS, BUT CONVERSATION PARTLY
ACADEMIC SINCE HE NOT ATTENDING 7TH SESSION DUE TO PRESS
OF OTHER DUTIES. AS USDEL AWARE, GOE DEL HEADED BY LOS
SPECIALIST DR. HAMID SULTAN. END SUMMARY.

1. IN GENERAL, ELARABY IS NOT AT ALL OPTIMISTIC ABOUT
OUTCOME OF 7TH SESSION. HE BELIEVES THERE HAS BEEN A
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RETROGRESSION DURING THE PAST YEAR. HE FOUND IN AMB
RICHARDSON'S COMMENTS "VERY DISTURBING IMPLICATION" THAT
U.S. MIGHT NOT BECOME A PARTY TO TREATY IF IT WERE
CONCLUDED. HE THOUGHT THIS SMACKED OF THREAT AND WAS
UNSEEMLY FOR GREAT POWER. HE BELIEVES U.S. SHOULD BE
ABLE TO ACCEPT SOME COMPROMISES, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW
OF WILLINGNESS OF PARTIES TO REVIEW DEEP SEABED TREATY

IN 20 YEARS.

2. DEEP SEABED MINING REGIME. GOE WILL STICK WITH THE POSITION OF G-77. WITH REGARD TO REGIME'S ORGANS OF AUTHORITY, GOE CONTINUES BELIEVE, CONTRARY TO U.S. POSITION, THAT ASSEMBLY SHOULD HAVE WIDER SUPERVISION AND AUTHORITY THAN THE COUNCIL. THIS IS, OF COURSE, CONFLICT BETWEEN U.S. AND GOE IN SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. RE SITE OF REGIME HQ, GOE IS COMMITTED TO MALTA. ELARABY SAID FIJI HAD RECENTLY MADE A DEMARCHE TO HAVE HQ BUT GOE HAD DECLINED TO SUPPORT IT IN VIEW OF ITS COMMITMENT.

3. WITH REGARD TO LL/GDS ACCESS TO EEZ, ELARABY AGREED WITH U.S. VIEW THAT COMPROMISE LIKELY. HE REVEALED THAT GOE COULD BECOME A MEMBER OF GDS IN VIEW OF ITS LIMITED EEZ AND IS IN PROCESS OF CAREFULLY EXAMINING THIS ISSUE. EGYPT HAS BEEN APPROACHED BY GREECE AND CYPRUS TO CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT ON DIVISION OF THEIR EEZ'S.

4. RE CONTINENTAL MARGIN, GOE POSITION IS THAT NATIONAL JURISDICTION SHOULD END AT THE 200 MILE LIMIT OF THE EEZ.

5. RE MARITIME ZONE BETWEEN OPPOSITE AND ADJACENT STATES, GOE HAS NO PROBLEM SINCE IT ACCEPTS THE PRINCIPLE OF THE MEDIAN LINE AS DETERMINING.
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6. DISPUTE SETTLEMENT. GOE ACCEPTS COMPULSORY DISPUTE SETTLEMENT MACHINERY FOR ALL PROBLEMS ARISING IN AREAS OUTSIDE NATIONAL JURISDICTION. HOWEVER, IN AREAS OF NATIONAL JURISDICTION GOE MIGHT HAVE PROBLEM (PRESUMABLY BECAUSE OF ENDING UP IN COURT WITH ISRAEL). ELARABY SAID HE WISHED TO RESERVE MAKING ANY COMMENT ON THIS SINCE HE IS EXPECTING A REPORT FROM THE DELEGATION IN GENEVA NEXT WEEK ON THIS SUBJECT. ELARABY PERSONALLY FAVORS FULL ACCEPTANCE OF COMPULSORY DISPUTE SETTLEMENT.

7. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. ELARABY SAID ONE OF PRINCIPAL DIFFERENCES WITH U.S. WAS GOE POSITION ON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. GOE IS NOT PREPARED TO ACCEPT FREE ACCESS IN THE EEZ WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENT, PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE ITS IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORS, SAUDI ARABIA, LIBYA AND ISRAEL, ALL HAVE ADVANTAGES OF MONEY OR TECHNOLOGY OVER EGYPT.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW OF THE SEA, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAIRO09405
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: GS DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780133-0150
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780323/aaaaatds.tel
Line Count: 112
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8cc312bd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION DLOS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 70035, 78 STATE 71543
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3198152
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOS: EGYPTIAN VIEWS ON LAW OF THE SEA - CONFERENCE
TAGS: PLOS, EG, (ELARABY, NABIL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8cc312bd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014